

House Concurrent Resolution 7 - Introduced

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

BY CHAMBERS and KEARNS

1 A Concurrent Resolution supporting the establishment of
2 a veterans national recovery center at the former
3 Veterans Affairs Hospital campus in Knoxville, Iowa.

4 WHEREAS, Iowa has a proud tradition of supporting
5 veterans who have fought to protect us all; and

6 WHEREAS, the history of war is such that veterans
7 do not need to bleed to be injured, evidenced by
8 "soldier's heart" in the Civil War, "shell shock" in
9 World War II, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
10 and traumatic brain injury (TBI) today, demonstrating
11 that what veterans see and experience can change them
12 in profound ways; and

13 WHEREAS, society is only beginning to understand
14 how these potentially lifelong conditions affect the
15 ability of the returning veteran to adapt to society,
16 often resulting in homelessness, drug addiction, and
17 suicide, even though these emotional and physiological
18 wounds remain unseen unlike physical injuries from
19 combat; and

20 WHEREAS, nationwide there are an estimated 126,000
21 homeless veterans today, and recovery facilities are
22 scarce, especially in small urban and rural areas, with
23 an estimated 30,000-recovery-bed shortage, including
24 a shortage of 8,000 beds for the two-year Department
25 of Veterans Affairs-funded transitional program for
26 homeless veterans; and

27 WHEREAS, homelessness among veterans has for years
28 been considered a local and regional problem, as local

1 citizens can best reintegrate the local soldier into
2 the fabric of local society; and

3 WHEREAS, this local problem creates a need for a
4 veterans national recovery center because nothing
5 similar exists today for homeless veterans; and

6 WHEREAS, a vision exists in which homeless veterans
7 from around the region and nation can access an
8 integrated services center that provides training,
9 counseling, personal connectivity from outside
10 providers to create an environment that can lift the
11 spirits and aspirations of even the most discouraged
12 homeless veteran, to give veterans from underserved
13 areas, both rural and suburban, priority services,
14 and to conduct needed research into the solutions for
15 homelessness among veterans; and

16 WHEREAS, the integrated services center could
17 network with national corporations at the highest level
18 to provide job and living opportunities across the
19 country to homeless veterans that have progressed to
20 psychological stability and self-sufficiency; and

21 WHEREAS, base funding is available for operations
22 through programs promoted by the United States
23 Department of Veterans Affairs, including a capitals
24 program, a transportation program, and a two-year
25 program intended to transition the homeless veteran
26 from the street to a working, stable home; and

27 WHEREAS, the former Veterans Affairs Hospital
28 campus at Knoxville, Iowa, is available and has the
29 capacity to support the veterans national recovery
30 center for veterans who are homeless or have suffered

1 from post-traumatic stress disorders or traumatic
2 brain injuries, and can provide jobs for veterans and
3 nonveterans alike and economic development to the
4 area; NOW THEREFORE,

5 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
6 SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly of the
7 State of Iowa views the establishment of a veterans
8 national recovery center at the former Veterans Affairs
9 Hospital campus in Knoxville, Iowa, favorably and urges
10 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to
11 take those actions necessary to implement the center's
12 establishment.

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That upon passage, the Chief
14 Clerk of the House of Representatives immediately
15 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Honorable
16 Eric Shinseki, Secretary of the United States
17 Department of Veterans Affairs.